

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 233

By Pitts

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Sergeant First Class Ofren “AC” Arrechaga of Clarksville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely death of Sergeant First Class Ofren “AC” Arrechaga, a courageous member of the United States Army who gave his life in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, following in the patriotic tradition for which our nation's finest sons and daughters are renowned, Sergeant AC Arrechaga was a brave and honorable member of the United States Army, serving as an Infantryman assigned to Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault); and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Arrechaga lost his life while conducting combat operations in Kunar Province, Afghanistan, on March 29, 2011; he was twenty-eight years of age; and

WHEREAS, AC Arrechaga was born in Havana, Cuba, on December 22, 1982, to Roberto Alvarez, Sr., and Marta Alvarez; and

WHEREAS, he was joined in holy matrimony with Seana Minikhiem Arrechaga on September 1, 2007, and the couple's blessed union produced one son, Alston Arrechaga; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Arrechaga's distinguished awards and dedications were numerous, including the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Valorous Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Citation, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, Ranger Tab, Expert Infantryman Badge, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and Combat Infantryman Badge; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his parents, wife, and son, Sgt. Arrechaga is survived by his daughter, Tristian Arrechaga, his brother, Robert Alvarez, Jr., and his sister, Claudia Arrechaga-Rodriguez; and

WHEREAS, AC Arrechaga's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of family, his fellow soldiers, and his country are exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear, and stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, this valiant American leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly should pause to remember the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of this exceptional soldier and human being, Sergeant First Class Ofren "AC" Arrechaga, United States Army, whose loss is mourned by a grateful nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Sergeant First Class Ofren "AC" Arrechaga, a man of impeccable character and limitless courage who stalwartly committed himself to the defense of his nation as a member of the United States Army, and reflect fondly upon his bravery and dedication to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and friends of Sgt. Arrechaga.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.